

Message Text

SECRET

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51

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 151627Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4554

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 949

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 5074

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF

SUBJECT: PLO ITEM IN UNGA

REF: A. JERUSALEM 1804

B. USUN 4064

1. REFTEL A WAS DELIVERED TO THE EMBASSY ONLY AT THE
OPENING OF BUSINESS OCTOBER 15 BECAUSE ONLY A FLASH
OR NIACT IMMEDIATE MESSAGE WILL REACTIVATE THE
EMBASSY'S COMMUNICATIONS LINK UNDER THE PRESENT PROCE-
DURES ONCE THE CIRCUIT IS CLOSED AT MID-DAY ON SATURDAY.
THIS IS A CHRONIC PROBLEM KNOWN TO THE DEPARTMENT,
WHICH HAS SEVERAL TIMES RESULTED IN EMBARRASSING AND
HARMFUL DELAYS IN THE RECEIPT OF URGENT INSTRUCTIONS
CALLING FOR ACTION OVER THE WEEKEND. DELAY IN THIS
CASE WAS PARTICULARLY UNFORTUNATE SINCE FONMIN VAN DER
STOEL HAD PERSONALLY ASKED TO BE INFORMED ABOUT
POSITION US WOULD TAKE ON OCTOBER 14 DISCUSSION AND
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VOTE ON PLO RESOLUTION. REFTEL A WAS TRANSMITTED FROM

JERUSALEM IN GOOD TIME BUT BECAUSE IT WAS CAPTIONED ONLY "IMMEDIATE" IT WAS NOT RECEIVED AT THE HAGUE FOR A DAY AND A HALF. WE ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT AT THIS END TO ASSURE THAT THERE WILL BE NO DELAY IN THE RECEIPT OF IMMEDIATE MESSAGES ARRIVING AT THE EMBASSY OVER THE WEEKEND OR ON A HOLIDAY. IN THE MEANWHILE, THE DEPARTMENT IS REMINDED THAT URGENT ACTION MESSAGES SHOULD BE SENT FLASH OR NIACT IMMEDIATE TO MEET DEADLINES OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR WORKWEEK.

2. CHARGE SAW LODEWIJK VAN GORKOM, NEWLY-APPOINTED FONOFF DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS, OCTOBER 15 TO EXPLAIN PURELY MECHANICAL REASONS FOR DELAY IN RECEIPT OF REPLY TO FONMIN VAN DER STOEL'S URGENT REQUEST FOR INFORMATION. CHARGE COVERED POINTS IN PARAS 1A-D AND 2 IN REFTEL A, AND LEFT VAN GORKOM TEXT OF AMBASSADOR SCALI'S STATEMENT (REFTEL B). VAN GORKOM ASSURED CHARGE THAT HE WOULD ADVISE VAN DER STOEL, ON HIS RETURN FROM EC-9 MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG, THAT SECRETARY'S REPLY TO VAN DER STOEL'S MESSAGE HAD BEEN DISPATCHED FROM JERUSALEM IN TIMELY FASHION. VAN GORKOM ADDED THAT FONOFF HAD HEARD FROM ITS WASHINGTON EMBASSY THAT US WOULD VOTE AGAINST PLO RESOLUTION BEFORE VOTE WAS ACTUALLY TAKEN.

3. VAN GORKOM INDICATED THAT DUTCH WERE CHAGRINED OVER THIS NEW FAILURE OF EC-9 TO ACHIEVE A COMMON POSITION ON AN IMPORTANT ISSUE. DECISION OF IRELAND TO VOTE WITH FRANCE AND ITALY IN FAVOR WAS AN UNPLEASANT SURPRISE. FONOFF HAD NOT YET HEARD OF ANY ARAB REACTION TO ABSTENTION VOTE OF NETHERLANDS AND FIVE OTHER EC MEMBERS. VAN GORKOM RECALLED THAT IN HIS RECENT MEETING WITH VAN DER STOEL AT UNGA, EGYPTIAN FONMIN FAHMI HAD SAID BANTERINGLY THAT FAILURE OF EC TO VOTE FOR THE PLO RESOLUTION COULD JEOPARDIZE THE EC-ARAB DIALOGUE, AS WELL AS VAN DER STOEL'S OWN SCHEDULED TRIP TO EGYPT. VAN GORKOM WAS INCLINED TO THINK THAT NEITHER THREAT WOULD MATERIALIZE.

4. VAN GORKOM EMPHASIZED, AS DID FONOFF POLITICAL
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DIRECTOR RUTTEN IN CONVERSATION LAST WEEK WITH DCM (THE HAGUE 4994), GREAT SENSITIVITY OF WHOLE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION FOR DUTCH POLITICAL SITUATION. HE SAID CONFIDENTIALLY THAT PARLIAMENTARIANS ATTACHED TO DUTCH UN DELEGATION HAD ADVISED VAN DER STOEL TO VOTE AGAINST PLO RESOLUTION . FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS, INCLUDING SOLIDARITY WITH A MAJORITY OF ITS EC PARTNERS. GON HAD DECIDED THAT ABSTENTION WOULD BEST SERVE THE

NETHERLANDS' INTEREST. IT WAS QUITE POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO VAN GORKOM THAT VAN DER STOEL WOULD BE ASKED SOME SHARP QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT ABOUT THE GON VOTE.

5. VAN GORKOM EXPRESSED INTEREST IN WHATEVER INFORMATION EMBASSY COULD OBTAIN ABOUT DISCUSSION OF PLO RESOLUTUION IN SECRETARY'S CONVERSATIONS WITH ARAB AND ISRAELI LEADERS. LOOKING AHEAD WITH UNDERSTANDABLE CONCERN TO PLENARY DEBATE ON THE PALESTINIAN ITEM, VAN GORKOM HOPED THAT THE US AND THE NETHERLANDS COULD STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH IN PLANNING HOW THEY WOULD HANDLE IT.

6. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT TO THE SECRETARY'S PARTY AND TO MIDDLE EAST POSTS AS DESIRED.
TANGUY

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NNN

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